

# EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

## THE NORTHERN COLORADO HEADWATERS WILDERNESS ACT OF 1998

**HON. DAVID E. SKAGGS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, August 6, 1998*

Mr. SKAGGS. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce today The Northern Colorado Headwaters Wilderness Act of 1998.

This bill is inspired by the dramatic mountain beauty of Colorado. Its provisions have been tempered and refined by a process of review and comments by hundreds of Colorado citizens and local officials, and crafted to fit into the tapestry of Colorado wilderness legislation.

In Colorado we are experiencing one of the highest growth rates in the country. That growth brings with it ever greater demand for outdoor recreation, as well as more stress on our supplies of water and other resources. As we face that growth and those pressures, it is especially timely and important that we deliberately and carefully set aside some special places to remain forever wild.

As a very thoughtful and pragmatic county commissioner from my district describes it, we now are putting, and will continue to put, demands on our natural-resources checking account. As we try to accommodate those demands, it is important that we make some deposits in the savings account of our wildland heritage. That's what this bill would do.

The areas this bill would protect include sweeping alpine tundra along the great Continental Divide; rich, deep old growth forests of fir, spruce, pine, and aspen; and crisp, sparkling mountain streams that flow from the edge of perennial snowfields and from deep mountain lakes.

They are places where you can witness the primeval naturalness of the world and watch weather moving through one hundred miles of sky.

Their designation as wilderness will permanently protect them as habitat for elk, big horn sheep, mountain goats, native greenback cutthroat trout, bear, bobcat, and eagles.

As wilderness, these remarkable places will remain as refuges for our own sanity and inspiration, either because we visit them, or just because we take comfort in knowing that such places are there, and remain unspoiled.

Among the wilderness lands included in this legislation is the James Peak area, certainly the key single area in the proposal, comprising about half the bill's total wilderness acreage. James Peak is a broad expanse of alpine terrain, about two-thirds above timberline. Roadless and virtually untouched by the century and a half of human activity and settlements around its flanks, James Peak offers unique backcountry recreational opportunities and the reassurance that a part of our natural heritage, near the homes of two million people, endures as it has since the last ice age.

Although this bill includes only half the James Peak roadless area suitable for wilder-

ness designation—that portion east of the divide in the Congressional District that I am proud to represent—it is important to protect that portion now. Its designation will reflect the will of a majority of people who have contacted me about James Peak and the resolutions of support received from three counties and many communities near the area.

Discussions will continue on the ultimate level of protection for the portion of James Peak to the west, outside the scope of this bill. I hope these discussions will conclude in a compromise agreement on boundaries and designations that will keep a significant portion in wild condition, free from motors and permanent habitations.

The other areas included in this bill are additions to existing wilderness areas, at Comanche Peak, Indian Peaks, and Mount Evans. Their addition will not only expand the terrain protected as wilderness, but also enhance the values and features that led to the original designations.

It's important to note that this bill, at 30,030 acres, includes only one tenth of the roadless areas in the Arapahoe and Roosevelt National Forests that were recently studied by the U.S. Forest Service. And while the bill would designate as wilderness more than the Forest Service recommended, it still is a very small part of the lands that qualify. We should protect this much, on which we have much agreement, now, while we can, leaving discussions about additional areas to another day.

I realize that this bill is introduced very late in this Congress, at a time when many other issues are seeking attention and time on the legislative calendar. Its timing, however, reflects the extensive discussions that I have had with so many knowledgeable and concerned citizens and officials at home.

Because of that time invested, this is a bill that reflects the broadest consensus of those who know and care about the issues. As such, it deserves prompt approval in the weeks remaining before adjournment.

AMERICAN GI FORUM—"EDUCATION IS OUR FREEDOM AND FREEDOM SHOULD BE EVERYBODY'S BUSINESS"

**HON. RUBÉN HINOJOSA**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, August 6, 1998*

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend a proud salute to the members of the American GI Forum who have gathered to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the founding of this organization by the late D. Hector P. Garcia.

Dr. Garcia was an inspiration to all of us and his legacy continues through the work the members do in his name and in the name of the organization he founded. The American GI Forum, a family-oriented Hispanic veterans group, was conceived in Corpus Christi, Texas

in the spring of 1948 after veterans raised concerns about their benefits and treatment. Dr. Garcia began fighting for the civil rights of many Americans—long before others joined the cause. He fought for civil, human and individual rights. His ideas were firmly planted in south Texas and in the Hispanic community—nationwide. His efforts produced many of today's Hispanic leaders and provided the foundation for tomorrow's generation of leaders.

Today, this organization has more than 100,000 members and 500 chapters in 32 states and Puerto Rico. More than 1,000,000 Hispanic veterans have proudly served their country and earned recognition for their service.

The GI Forum continues to champion issues which impact the community including: access to health care for veterans, affirmative action, a fair and accurate census count, juvenile crime prevention, adolescent pregnancy prevention, and improving conditions in colonias.

Dr. Garcia's legacy continues to be felt today as the organization looks into the future. He believed that education was the foundation for future generations. To this end, the American GI Forum is making a concentrated effort to educate and provide leadership development opportunities for young people.

The American GI Forum celebrates 50 glorious years and many accomplishments, but the best years are yet to come. The future years will result in the fulfillment of Dr. Garcia's dream for a better tomorrow for all Americans.

## THE SIGNING OF THE CREDIT UNION MEMBERSHIP ACCESS ACT

**HON. GEORGE E. BROWN, JR.**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, August 6, 1998*

Mr. BROWN of California. Mr. Speaker, President Clinton is scheduled to sign H.R. 1151, the Credit Union Membership Access Act, into law tomorrow, August 7, 1998, at 10:15 a.m., in a private ceremony in the White House Oval Office. As an original cosponsor of H.R. 1151, I rise today to praise Congress, the Clinton Administration and the credit union community for working together in a bipartisan matter to enact this important legislation.

With the enactment of H.R. 1151, the 1934 Federal Credit Union Act will be amended to preserve the ability of all Americans to join the credit union of their choice, and to ensure that the 73 million Americans who are currently members of credit unions in no way have their membership status jeopardized. Today, we celebrate a true victory for working, middle class Americans who need affordable financial services. Credit unions represent democracy in the work force. This bill improves consumer choice and allows for greater competition in the financial services sector. Now, working people and consumers will continue to have access to the affordable financial services that credit unions have always offered.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Mr. Speaker, on this historic occasion, I would like to recognize the California Credit Union League and Arrowhead Credit Union of San Bernardino for the vital role they have played in the national advancement of H.R. 1151. Without their extraordinary grassroots efforts, a swift congressional approval of H.R. 1151 would not have been possible. They have every reason to celebrate this victory, and I praise them for their continued efforts to reach out to the underserved and to expand their contributions to the economy.

As a long-time supporter of credit unions in the United States, I am honored to be an original cosponsor of H.R. 1151 and to have been able to join the credit union community in efforts to enact a bill that will preserve the rights of millions of Americans to join and continue their access to credit unions.

#### THE PASSING OF RABBI LEIBISH (LEOPOLD) LEFKOWITZ

#### HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 6, 1998

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, on first blush, Rabbi Leibish (Leopold) Lefkowitz was a Talmudic scholar bearing in his heart the abundant gifts and miraculous fate of the Jewish people. This singular impression fades rapidly, however, on closer inspection. Who was this rabbi, mayor, community leader, businessman, philanthropist, friend?

It was, of course, Leibish Lefkowitz. Rabbi Lefkowitz, the humble immigrant who came to these shores shortly after the Second World War and settled in New York with his wife, operating a crystal and gift shop on Manhattan's Lower East Side, which soon turned into Crystal Clear Industries Enterprise, one of the largest crystal companies in the United States. Rabbi Lefkowitz, the intrepid educator, who was president of the 18,000 student Satmar educational system, United Talmudical Academy and Beth Rachel, educating children from kindergarten through post-rabbinical seminary. Rabbi Lefkowitz, the proud servant to his community, who was president of Satmar Congregation Yetev Lev of Williamsburg, Brooklyn, and founder of the United Jewish Organization of Williamsburg, a community service bureau of the utmost importance and indeed profound effectiveness. Rabbi Lefkowitz, the pioneer and "elected official," who was founder and mayor of the Kiryat Joel Village in Monroe, New York, now with over 15,000 residents. Rabbi Lefkowitz, the generous philanthropist, who helped so many and gave so much, building organizations, homes, even cities. And, of course, Rabbi Lefkowitz the husband, father of two, grandfather of sixteen, and great-grandfather of forty-two.

As is clear, Rabbi Leibish Lefkowitz was a man of parts: many parts. And with his beloved Torah, or Old Testament, as his guide, the Divine as his inspiration, and perfecting the world as his goal, all these unique parts amalgamated into the extraordinary man that Rabbi Lefkowitz was, the true and deserving servant of God that he wished to be.

Since his passing on August 1st, the amount of righteousness in this world has declined, and indeed the world has become a lesser place. The Almighty, in his infinite yet

inexplicable wisdom, has taken Rabbi Lefkowitz to be with Himself, depriving us of this beloved *mensch*, but bestowing upon heaven his blessed soul.

#### AMERICAN SUPPORT FOR MOROCCO IS CRUCIAL

#### HON. HOWARD COBLE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 6, 1998

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, a few weeks ago a letter was sent to President Clinton, signed by 90 members of the House and Senate, urging the President to "undertake all appropriate steps to strengthen U.S.-Moroccan cooperation." I signed this letter because I strongly believe that we should stand by our friends in the world.

Morocco has for years been a loyal American ally in a region fraught with peril. It is a constitutional monarchy with a free and democratically-elected government. Led by King Hassan, Morocco is committed to free trade, privatization and a free-market economy. In the past year, there has been more than a 300-percent increase in direct investment from the United States.

Morocco would like to see our relationship grow—working together in the region and in mutually-beneficial trade development. We all know that the key to the future, especially for America's economic health is to create more markets and greater stability for U.S. companies to expand around the world.

This is why American support for our ally Morocco is just as crucial today as it has been in the past.

#### A TRIBUTE TO ALICE ASHTON

#### HON. JERRY LEWIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 6, 1998

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to recognize and acknowledge Alice E. Ashton on her 80th birthday for 35 years of unselfish community service. The mother of seven children and a military wife, she nonetheless found the time, energy and commitment to assist others. A resident of Redlands, California, she has touched the lives of numerous individuals, young and old, through her many acts of humanitarian volunteerism.

Alice Ashton's service is very well known. During the early 1960's, Alice volunteered at the Redlands Well-Baby Clinic providing young mothers in dealing with the new responsibilities of parenthood. During that same period, she provided tutoring in the public housing project to elementary and middle school students and was a volunteer reader for young children.

From 1965 to 1975, Alice was a member of the Redlands Human Relations Council, an organization whose goal was to improve the quality of life for the less fortunate. The passage of the California Unfair Housing bill was a result of her tireless efforts. She was also a crisis intervention volunteer during this ten-year period, helping individuals deal with some

of their darkest moments. With limited formal training, she brought a level of compassion and empathy to the job that was extraordinary, but was no accident; she had suffered a grievous personal tragedy of her own. On August 1, 1966, an emotionally distraught young man occupied the clock tower in the Commons of the University of Texas with a high-powered rifle and began firing indiscriminately at the students below. Alice's oldest son was one of the first individuals killed. Characteristically, she dealt with her grief by helping others.

From July, 1977 to June, 1978 Alice served as a member of the San Bernardino County Grand Jury. In the early 1980's, responding to a desire to improve her own education, Alice enrolled in various courses at Crafton Community College. Despite a challenging academic schedule, she found time between classes to do volunteer work with Family Services in the community of Yucaipa, California. She was also a peer counselor with Ombudsman for the Aged during this period.

The 1990's saw her focus return to children's issues as she became an active volunteer in the Child Advocacy Division in the Department of Public Social Services for San Bernardino County. She was also very involved as a volunteer at the County Juvenile Detention Facility. She currently runs the canteen at that facility, the proceeds of which are used to improve living conditions and provide recreational items for the young inmates.

Alice is also an active advocate for participation in the political process, both locally and nationally. She works tirelessly in getting out the vote and has served as an official delegate for her party on two occasions. Her contributions over the years can be summed up in one word: citizen. She embodies everything that word connotes, being involved and doing whatever she can to make her community a better place to live.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me and our colleagues in recognizing the valuable and selfless contributions of Alice Ashton. Her lifetime commitment to assisting others is certainly worthy of our respect and it is only fitting that the House recognize her today.

#### A TRIBUTE TO THE SMITHTOWN FIRE DEPARTMENT'S 90TH ANNIVERSARY

#### HON. MICHAEL P. FORBES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 6, 1998

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in the U.S. House of Representatives to join my friends and neighbors in Smithtown, Long Island as we celebrate the 90th anniversary of the founding of the Smithtown Volunteer Fire Department.

Since 1908, the residents of Smithtown have entrusted their most precious possessions—their families—to the men and women of this historic fire department. That trust is well-founded, for Smithtown's volunteer firefighters are devoted to their duties, courageously shielding their family, friends and neighbors from all dangers. Compensated only by the satisfaction that their efforts save lives and protect property, these volunteers have answered every alarm for 90 years. I am proud and honored to count these brave firefighters and emergency services personnel among my friends and neighbors.